

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /057 W

-----110909Z 121544 /12

O P 110753Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6480

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

REF: K.L. 1496 NOTAL

1. THE NEW STRAITS TIMES REPORTED THIS MORNING (MARCH 11) IN ARTICLE DATED HONG KONG THAT THURSDAY ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL "HAS URGED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE PHILIPPINES". STORY QUOTES AMERICAN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IN KUALA LUMPUR AS SAYING: "THE AMBASSADOR SAYS: "YES, WE DID SEND A TELGRAM, AND WE DID DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL (OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES FROM THE PHILIPPINES)". STORY FURTHER QUOTES SPOKESMAN AS CHARACTERIZING RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS A "NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE...A CONTINUING EXERCISE OF ALL AMBASSADORS".

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2. AS RESULT OF STORY, WE ARE GETTING FEW INQUIRIES FROM REPORTERS WHOM WE ARE TELLING ROUGHLY SAME THING: THAT THE PROS AND CONS OF WITHDRAWAL AND VALUE OF PHILIPPINE BASES WERE "DISCUSSED" IN TELEGRAM FROM HERE. WE HAVE REFUSED TO USE WORD "RECOMMENDATION". THE JAPANESE EMBASSY AND THUS FAR TO A LESSER DEGREE THE

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE STORY.
JAPANESE IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US AT
SEVERAL LEVELS AND JAPANESE COUNSELOR TOLD DCM
FORTHRIGHTLY THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF HIS GOVERNMENT
COULD SAY IN CASE OF QUESTIONS IN DIET THAT U.S. EMBASSY
HAD "DENIED" THAT ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN MADE.
DCM AVOIDED FLAT DENIAL, STICKING TO WORD "DISCUSSION"
AND EMPHASIZING THAT SUCH INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS, EXAMINING
POLICIES, EVEN OLD ESTABLISHED ONES, A NORMAL PART OF
OUR WAY OF DOING BUSINESS.

3. THURSDAY'S ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL HAS NOT YET
ARRIVED HERE. THERE MAY BE MORE INTEREST WHEN FULL
STORY APPEARS.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, RP, US, ASEAN, (UNDERHILL, FRANCIS)
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